

Pink gingham sailor-collar mini - sewing instructions

EU 36 . 8 pieces . seam allowance 10 mm

0. Paper first

Print the pack at 100% scale, then measure the square on page 3 of the A4 pattern with a ruler. If it is not 100 mm, DO NOT CUT. Trim the sheets along the LEFT and TOP edges, overlap them until the corner targets (a cross in a circle) of neighbouring sheets sit exactly on each other, and tape. The page map is on page 2 of the A4 pattern.

Body and finished garment measurements

EU 36: standard size-table body, not your personal measurements. All circumferences below are in cm; garment minus body is the constructed ease. Seam allowances are excluded.

Bust: body 84.0 / garment 90.0 / ease 6.0 cm.

Waist: body 66.0 / garment 68.5 / ease 2.5 cm.

Hip: body 90.0 / garment 95.0 / ease 5.0 cm.

Finished length

EU 36, standard size-table body: centre front 74.3 cm from the neck edge to the hem, centre back 91.6 cm. The hem sits 54.8 cm below the waist, 3.2 cm above the knee. The hem position was read from the photograph, not measured.

To change the length, measure your own waist-to-hem length first. Add or take off the same amount at the hem of every piece: extend (or shorten) each seam line straight on in its own direction and redraw the hem parallel to the printed one, square to each seam. Buttons are re-spaced evenly between the top and the lowest one.

Fabric and ease decisions

Fabric mechanics are unmeasured. The existing pattern uses its recorded default ease; this is not a fabric-specific fit approval. Sample evidence applies only to its stated load, direction, method and time. It does not establish seam elasticity, movement, pressure, comfort or physical fit. Test a toile and your actual cloth before final cutting.

Derived, not seen

The back is not visible in the photograph, so it was derived: a back with princess seams like the front and a centre-back seam, cut to match the front, with a centre-back closure; the front's decoration is not repeated.

1. Cutting

Cut along the OUTER line; the default 10 mm seam allowance is inside it, except where a different edge allowance is printed. The inner fine line is the stitching line. The arrow on each piece (grainline) must lie PARALLEL to the straight grain of the fabric - set it askew and the garment will twist on the body. A piece marked "ON FOLD" is placed against the folded edge and is never cut along it.

- #1 UPPER FRONT CENTRE: CUT 1X ON FOLD
- #2 FRONT CENTRE PANEL: CUT 1X ON FOLD
- #3 FRONT SIDE: CUT 2X MIRRORED
- #4 FRONT SIDE SKIRT: CUT 2X MIRRORED, ON THE BIAS
- #5 BACK CENTRE: CUT 2X MIRRORED
- #6 BACK SIDE: CUT 2X MIRRORED

- #7 FRONT COLLAR: CUT 4X: 2 UPPER + 2 UNDER COLLAR (MIRRORED PAIRS); UNDER: TRIM 2 MM OFF THE OUTER EDGE; GRAIN AS ARROW

- #8 BACK COLLAR: CUT 4X: 2 UPPER + 2 UNDER COLLAR (MIRRORED PAIRS); UNDER: TRIM 2 MM OFF THE OUTER EDGE

CHECKED FABRIC: match the checks before you cut. Cut single layer, right side up, and turn the paper over for the second copy of a mirrored piece, so both copies sit on the checks the same way; a piece marked ON FOLD is traced, flipped along its fold line, traced again and cut whole. Place a piece's centre line (or fold line) on the middle of a check, and its hem line on the same horizontal check line on every piece. Then put each side-seam notch of the front and of the back on the same horizontal check line (Patterns Scissors Cloth: centre front and back first, then side seams). Buy extra cloth for this (see the cutting layout).

FRONT COLLAR: its grain arrow is turned 12 degrees from the piece's centre line, so the checks follow its front edge (as in the photograph): lay the arrow exactly along one line of checks, and cut the second copy of each pair with the paper turned over on the same line. Its checks are not matched to the bodice.

FRONT SIDE SKIRT is cut ON THE BIAS: lay its grain arrow parallel to the selvedge (along the fold in the cutting layout) and do not turn it again, the bias angle is already built into the pattern (the arrow is drawn at 45 degrees across the piece), so the checks run diagonally on it; its seams are not matched to the checks of the straight pieces. A bias edge stretches: staystitch its top edge 4 mm from the raw edge as soon as it is cut, and let the finished dress hang for a day before you level and turn up the hem.

2. Markings

Notches (the small ticks on an edge) tell you where two pieces meet. Cut each piece out on its solid line first; then, at every tick, snip 3 mm straight into the allowance from the cut edge, along the tick (a double tick is two snips). The tick is printed 7 mm long only so that you find it; it stops 3 mm short of the stitching line, so a 3 mm snip never reaches the seam. On a piece cut with no allowance (a binding strip) mark the tick with chalk instead of snipping. A single tick marks a FRONT edge, two ticks close together mark a BACK edge (Tilly: "two notches together usually indicates the back of a pattern piece"). A seam that joins a front piece to a back piece (a side seam) carries a single tick on BOTH pieces, so the two ticks you match always look the same. A single tick that meets a seam of the other piece (the top of the sleeve cap) has no partner tick: it goes to that seam line. Each seam step below names its notches piece by piece, with the distance along the edge.

This pattern also carries LINES DRAWN ON THE PIECE (not cut, not sewn): trace them onto the fabric with tailor's chalk before you unpin the paper. Each one is listed with the piece it belongs to and what it is for.

- FRONT CENTRE PANEL / BUTTON 1 (placement): button position 1 of 5: sew a 12 mm fabric-covered button (a self-cover button kit, covered in the dress fabric) with its centre on this mark.

- FRONT CENTRE PANEL / BUTTON 2 (placement): button position 2 of 5: sew a 12 mm fabric-covered button (a self-cover button kit, covered in the dress fabric) with its centre on this mark.

- FRONT CENTRE PANEL / BUTTON 3 (placement): button position 3 of 5: sew a 12 mm fabric-covered button (a self-cover button kit, covered in the dress fabric) with its centre on this mark.

- FRONT CENTRE PANEL / BUTTON 4 (placement): button position 4 of 5: sew a 12 mm fabric-covered button (a self-cover button kit, covered in the dress fabric) with its centre on this mark.

- FRONT CENTRE PANEL / BUTTON 5 (placement): button position 5 of 5: sew a 12 mm fabric-covered button (a self-cover button kit, covered in the dress fabric) with its centre on this mark.

2b. Staystitching

Before any seam is sewn, staystitch every edge that will be faced, inside its allowance: NECK 8 mm from the raw edge (10 mm allowance), ARMHOLE 4 mm from the raw edge (6 mm allowance), a regular straight stitch, so the curve cannot stretch while it waits through the seams, the zip and the fitting. Sew in one direction on each side: a neck edge from the shoulder or strap corner towards the centre, an armhole from the shoulder or strap corner down to the underarm. Handle these edges as little as possible until they are finished.

3. Sewing order

This order is not invented: it is the topological order of the stitch graph. The seams that keep the work FLAT come first; the seams that close a ring and turn flat work into a tube come after them (flat construction).

Before step 1: make up the COLLAR (section 3b.1); it is basted onto the neckline after the flat seams below (shoulders, princess and under-bust seams), when the neckline has its worn shape.

Seam allowances: after stitching each seam, neaten each raw allowance edge on its own with an overlock (serger) or a narrow zigzag close to the edge, so the cloth cannot fray inside the garment; then press as the step says. Bound edges, hem turns and fold lines need nothing extra.

1. UPPER FRONT CENTRE <-> BACK CENTRE (SHOULDER) - plain seam, 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

shoulder seam: shoulder edge <-> shoulder edge, neck <-> neck

2. BACK CENTRE <-> BACK SIDE (BACK PRINCESS SEAM) - plain seam, 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

PRINCESS SEAM THROUGH THE DART: the bodice dart is sewn as part of this seam, there is no separate dart. On both pieces the stitching line is one smooth curve through the dart point and the waist; match the notches, do not straighten the curve.

EASE, stretch by stretch (notches counted from the lower end): the BACK SIDE is 1.2 mm longer from the lower end to notch 1; the BACK SIDE is 1.3 mm longer between notches 1 and 2; elsewhere the two edges are the same length (within 1 mm). Pin the notches together first, then ease the longer piece in within its stretch, with no tucks; sew with the BACK SIDE underneath.

notches - BACK CENTRE princess edge (845 mm seam): double notch at 554 mm, double notch at 783 mm from its lower end (291 mm, 62 mm from its upper end); BACK SIDE princess edge (847 mm seam): double notch at 62 mm, double notch at 292 mm from its upper end (785 mm, 555 mm from its lower end). Match the single ticks to the single ticks and the double ticks to the double ticks; the two sides line up there.

3. FRONT SIDE <-> FRONT SIDE SKIRT (FRONT HIP SEAM) - PLEATED SEAM: the pleats are folded first (below), 10 mm allowance.

PLEATS IN THIS SEAM, folded first: on FRONT SIDE SKIRT's top edge, near the side seam, 2 knife pleats 14 mm deep (the first 18 mm from the side seam line, 18 mm apart on the finished seam). Bring each PLEAT n FOLD line onto its PLEAT n PLACE line, the folds turned towards the side seam, pin and machine-baste across them 6 mm from the edge: the edge now matches the other piece's. Sew the seam with FRONT SIDE SKIRT underneath, finish the two allowances together and press them up, away from the skirt; do not press the pleats below the seam: they open into the skirt.

FRONT SIDE SKIRT: stop this seam at the small tick on its front hip seam edge, where the FRONT PRINCESS SEAM takes over (the next 357 mm of this piece's edge are the FRONT PRINCESS SEAM); the edge runs on straight past it, so the tick is the only mark.

notches - FRONT SIDE front hip seam edge (181 mm seam): single notch at 90 mm from its lower end (90 mm from its upper end);

FRONT SIDE SKIRT front hip seam edge (237 mm seam): single notch at 146 mm from its outer end (90 mm from its centre-line end).

Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

4. UPPER FRONT CENTRE <-> FRONT CENTRE PANEL (FRONT UNDER-BUST SEAM) - plain seam, 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

INSIDE CORNER AT THE CENTRE FRONT FOLD (the point of the V): UPPER FRONT CENTRE turns an inside corner (218°) there; they are cut on the fold, so the corner is in the middle of each piece. Reinforce it first: staystitch each of these layers on the stitching line with a short stitch (1.5 mm) for 25 mm either side of the point, then clip into the point up to the staystitching, not through it (Grainline Studio, Alder sew-along: "Clip from the corner to, but not through, the pivot point"). Sew with the bodice on top, from one side to the point: stop exactly at the point with the needle down, lift the foot, pivot, spread the clipped layers so the next edge lies along the bodice, and sew on to the other side.

notches - UPPER FRONT CENTRE front under-bust seam edge (93 mm seam): single notch at 47 mm from its centre-line end (47 mm from its outer end); FRONT CENTRE PANEL front under-bust seam edge (93 mm seam): single notch at 47 mm from its outer end (47 mm from its centre-line end). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

5. FRONT CENTRE PANEL + UPPER FRONT CENTRE <-> FRONT SIDE + FRONT SIDE SKIRT (FRONT PRINCESS SEAM) - plain seam, 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

PRINCESS SEAM THROUGH THE DART: the bodice dart is sewn as part of this seam, there is no separate dart. On both pieces the stitching line is one smooth curve through the dart point and the waist; match the notches, do not straighten the curve.

BUST SHAPING IN THIS SEAM (armhole princess: the bust dart lives in the seam): UPPER FRONT CENTRE is cut 49 mm longer above the bust line at the princess and armhole (the centre front keeps the body's length, so the neckline dips deeper at the centre front on the

paper than when worn). The two edges curve differently over the bust: UPPER FRONT CENTRE's edge curves in (concave), FRONT SIDE's edge curves out over the bust (convex), notched on both pieces at the point nearest the bust point (15 mm from it). FRONT SIDE's outward curve is 1.7 mm longer (the ease below). On UPPER FRONT CENTRE, staystitch 2 mm inside the stitching line through the inward curve, then clip the allowance to the staystitching every 10-15 mm along the curve so it spreads. With UPPER FRONT CENTRE on top, pin the bust notches together first, then the armhole ends, then the lower ends and between, and sew slowly through the curve easing FRONT SIDE in between the notches. On FRONT SIDE, cut small V notches out of the allowance where it bunches on the outward curve. Press the allowances open over a tailor's ham (or a rolled towel), not flat on the board.

1.7 mm of ease: the FRONT SIDE + FRONT SIDE SKIRT is 1.7 mm longer along this seam. Pin the notches together first, then ease the FRONT SIDE + FRONT SIDE SKIRT in between them until it matches the FRONT CENTRE PANEL + UPPER FRONT CENTRE, with no tucks; sew with the FRONT SIDE + FRONT SIDE SKIRT underneath.

FRONT SIDE SKIRT: this seam starts at the small tick on its princess edge, where the FRONT HIP SEAM ends; the edge runs on straight past it, so the tick is the only mark. Match the other piece's start of this seam to the tick.

notches - FRONT CENTRE PANEL princess edge (599 mm seam): single notch at 178 mm, single notch at 357 mm, single notch at 548 mm from its lower end (420 mm, 242 mm, 51 mm from its upper end); the notch at 357 mm goes to the FRONT HIP SEAM seam line (no partner tick); UPPER FRONT CENTRE princess edge (277 mm seam): single notch at 128 mm, single notch at 202 mm from its lower end (149 mm, 74 mm from its upper end); FRONT SIDE princess edge (520 mm seam): single notch at 75 mm, single notch at 150 mm, single notch at 278 mm, single notch at 329 mm from its upper end (445 mm, 370 mm, 242 mm, 191 mm from its lower end); the notch at 278 mm goes to the FRONT UNDER-BUST SEAM seam line (no partner tick); FRONT SIDE SKIRT princess edge (357 mm seam): single notch at 178 mm from its upper end (178 mm from its lower end). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

6. FRONT COLLAR <-> UPPER FRONT CENTRE (FRONT COLLAR SEAM) - COLLAR ONTO THE NECKLINE, BASTED (not a finished seam yet): the collar was made up before step 1 (section 3b.1). Lay it right side up on the right side of UPPER FRONT CENTRE, under collar down, raw neck edges together: its shoulder seam on the bodice's shoulder seam, the neck notches together, its front ends meeting at the centre front neck point. Machine-baste through the collar layers and the neckline 8 mm from the edge, inside the 10 mm allowance, easing nothing: the collar's neck edge is cut to the neckline's worn length. Do not press or trim yet: the neckline is finished over the collar with bias tape (section 3c, NECK).

7. BACK COLLAR <-> BACK CENTRE (BACK COLLAR SEAM) - COLLAR ONTO THE NECKLINE, BASTED (not a finished seam yet): the collar was made up before step 1 (section 3b.1). Carry the same basting on round the back neck: BACK COLLAR's neck edge on BACK CENTRE's, to the centre back edge (the collar ends there, at the zip). Do not press or trim yet: the neckline is finished over the collar with bias tape (section 3c, NECK).

The remaining 5 seams each close a ring - sew them after the flat work above, in this order.

8. BACK CENTRE <-> BACK CENTRE (BACK CENTRE BODICE) - CLOSING SEAM: this one closes a ring, so flat work becomes a tube. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

back centre zip (bodice): the garment opens here

ZIP OPENING: along the whole seam (368 mm); machine-baste the opening shut on the seam line, neaten both allowances and press the seam open. Prepare the remaining zip openings before inserting the single zip in the final zip step.

BACK CENTRE: stop this seam at the small tick on its centre back edge, where the BACK CENTRE SKIRT seam takes over (the next 548 mm of this piece's edge are the BACK CENTRE SKIRT seam); the edge runs on straight past it, so the tick is the only mark.

9. BACK CENTRE <-> BACK CENTRE (BACK CENTRE SKIRT) - CLOSING SEAM: this one closes a ring, so flat work becomes a tube. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

back centre zip (skirt)

ZIP OPENING: from 0% to 18% of its length (100 mm); sew the other 448 mm of this seam with a normal stitch, backstitching at the zip stop, machine-baste the opening shut on the seam line, neaten both allowances and press the seam open. Put the zip in over the basting now, as section 3b.2 describes, before the side seams are closed.

BACK CENTRE: this seam starts at the small tick on its centre back edge, where the BACK CENTRE BODICE seam ends; the edge runs on straight past it, so the tick is the only mark. Match the other piece's start of this seam to the tick.

notches - BACK CENTRE centre back edge (548 mm seam): double notch at 100 mm from its upper end (448 mm from its lower end).

Match the single ticks to the single ticks and the double ticks to the double ticks; the two sides line up there.

Steps 10-11 are ONE continuous seam joining the same two pieces: sew them in a single pass, without stopping at the hand-over ticks; the ticks only show where one part of the seam ends and the next begins.

10. FRONT SIDE <-> BACK SIDE (BODICE SIDE SEAM) - CLOSING SEAM: this one closes a ring, so flat work becomes a tube. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

bodice side seam: waist <-> waist, underarm <-> underarm

FRONT SIDE: this seam starts at the small tick on its side edge, where the SKIRT SIDE SEAM ends; the edge has no corner there: it runs on straight for 157 mm past the tick and only then bends. Match the other piece's start of this seam to the tick, not to the bend.

FRONT SIDE: the small tick on its side edge is where the BODICE SIDE SEAM hands over to the UNDERARM SIDE SEAM (the next 5 mm); sew on through it.

BACK SIDE: this seam starts at the small tick on its side edge, where the SKIRT SIDE SEAM ends; the edge runs on straight past it, so the tick is the only mark. Match the other piece's start of this seam to the tick.

BACK SIDE: the small tick on its side edge is where the BODICE SIDE SEAM hands over to the UNDERARM SIDE SEAM (the next 5 mm); sew on through it.

notches - FRONT SIDE side edge (194 mm seam): single notch at 97 mm from its lower end (97 mm from its upper end); BACK SIDE side edge (194 mm seam): single notch at 97 mm from its lower end (97 mm from its upper end). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

11. FRONT SIDE <-> BACK SIDE (UNDERARM SIDE SEAM) - continues the step above in the same pass. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

the top of the side seam: carry the BODICE SIDE SEAM straight through this short edge in the same pass, then stop where the armhole curve begins

12. FRONT SIDE SKIRT + FRONT SIDE <-> BACK SIDE (SKIRT SIDE SEAM) - CLOSING SEAM: this one closes a ring, so flat work becomes a tube. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

skirt side seam: skirt edge <-> skirt edge, waist <-> waist

FRONT SIDE: stop this seam at the small tick on its side edge, where the BODICE SIDE SEAM takes over (the next 194 mm of this piece's edge are the BODICE SIDE SEAM); the edge has no corner there: it runs on straight for 157 mm past the tick and only then bends.

BACK SIDE: stop this seam at the small tick on its side edge, where the BODICE SIDE SEAM takes over (the next 194 mm of this piece's edge are the BODICE SIDE SEAM); the edge runs on straight past it, so the tick is the only mark.

notches - FRONT SIDE SKIRT side edge (502 mm seam): single notch at 251 mm, single notch at 276 mm from its lower end (251 mm, 227 mm from its upper end); BACK SIDE side edge (551 mm seam): single notch at 251 mm, single notch at 275 mm, single notch at 502 mm from its lower end (300 mm, 275 mm, 49 mm from its upper end); the notch at 502 mm goes to the FRONT HIP SEAM seam line (no partner tick). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

3b.1 Collar (make it up before step 1)

FRONT COLLAR and BACK COLLAR are each cut 4 times: two upper-collar and two under-collar pieces (mirrored pairs). For a crisp collar fuse a lightweight woven interfacing (listed with the notions on the cutting layout) to the two upper-collar pieces of each before you start (test it on a scrap of your cloth first; fuse the under collars too for a firmer collar).

1) Shoulder (COLLAR SHOULDER SEAM): join each upper FRONT COLLAR to its upper BACK COLLAR along the shoulder edge, right sides together, notches matching, 10 mm allowance; do the same with the under-collar pieces. Press the allowances open. You now have a left and a right upper collar and a left and a right under collar.

2) Under collar a little smaller: trim 2 mm off the outer edge of each under-collar piece, tapering to nothing at the neck edge and at the centre back, so the finished edge rolls to the underside (the turn of the cloth).

3) Outer edge: lay each upper collar on its under collar, right sides together, raw outer edges together (the upper collar's 2 mm extra eased in), and stitch round the outer edge 6 mm from it: from the centre front neck point down the front tip edge, along the lower edge and up the side to the shoulder seam, straight on across it and round the back collar: down its side, along its lower edge and up its centre back edge to the centre back neck point (the centre back edge is a finished edge too: the collar ends there, at the zip). Pivot only at the corners - the front tip, the lower corners and the centre back corner; each collar is cut square to the shoulder seam, so the outer edge crosses it in one line; the long edges between are smooth curves, sew them without stopping. Leave the neck edge open.

BACK COLLAR is not in the photograph: it is drafted to match the front collar, 289 mm deep at the centre back (a design estimate; check the depth at the fitting).

4) Neckline gape (check at the fitting): this neckline comes down almost to the bust point, so no gape dart is taken out of it. If it stands away from the chest beside the collar, ease up to 6 mm per side of the bodice neckline onto stay tape between the neck corner and 30 mm below the shoulder, and take the same amount off the collar's neck edge there.

5) Below the bust point the collar is cut about 40 mm fuller along its lower edge than the bodice under it. This is intended: it rides over the bust like a small cape and stands slightly away beneath it. Do not ease, dart or pleat it to fit. Press the made-up collar over a tailor's ham with the lower edge curling down. After the neckline is finished, hand-tack the two front

tips invisibly to the bodice at the centre front.

6) Trim the allowance to 3 mm, clip the inward curves every 10 mm up to the stitching (not through it), notch out the outward curves and cut the corners diagonally close to the stitching.

7) Turn right side out, push the corners and the front tip out with a point turner, and press. Understitch: with the allowances turned towards the under collar, stitch them to it 2 mm from the seam as far as the corners let you; press the edge so the seam rolls 1 mm to the underside and cannot be seen from above.

8) Machine-baste the neck edges of the two layers together 8 mm from the edge. The collar goes onto the neckline in step 6 and the neckline is finished over it (section 3c, NECK).

3b.2 Zip and pieces sewn onto the surface

Zip: a centred zip, as the views show - the opening is 468 mm; buy a 50 cm zip. It is longer than the opening: put it in with its top stop at the neck as below; at the opening's lower end whip-stitch a new stop by hand across the teeth (8-10 stitches) and cut the zip 20 mm below it. With the zip opening machine-basted shut on the seam line, neatened and pressed open (steps above), lay the zip face down on the allowances, teeth centred on the seam, top stop 13 mm below the raw neck edge so it clears the neck seam. From the right side stitch 6.5 mm either side of the seam and straight across just below the stop, then unpick the basting. Put it in before the seams that cross its lower end are closed, then finish the neck edge over the tape ends.

3c. Complete edge finishes

NECK: one, finished edge 806 mm. Design assumption, not a measured source detail.

Use ready-made single-fold bias tape, 12 mm wide (25 mm unfolded), in a colour that matches the cloth: it turns fully to the inside and is not seen from outside. Cut 826 mm for one edge: measured length + two 10 mm end turns. This is a purchased notion, not included in the cloth layout.

This edge carries the neckline seam's 10 mm allowance. Fold each short end under 10 mm first. The collar is already basted on this edge (steps 6-7). Unfold one long edge of the tape and lay it on top of the collar, right side down, raw edges together with the collar's and the bodice's neck edges; stitch along the tape's crease on the neckline's seam line, 10 mm from the edge, through tape, both collar layers and the bodice. Trim the allowance to 3 mm and clip the inward curves every 10 mm up to the stitching (not through it). Lift the collar out of the way, press tape and allowances away from the garment and understitch them together 2 mm from the seam, through the bodice's allowance only. Turn the tape fully to the inside; the collar now lies outward over the bodice and the seam is hidden under it. Press. Do not topstitch: the edge shows no stitching from outside. Pin the tape flat to the inside and slipstitch its folded edge by hand, catching only one or two threads of the garment cloth with each stitch, and tack it to every seam allowance it crosses.

ARMHOLE: each of 2, finished edge 356 mm. Design assumption, not a measured source detail.

Assumption to check on the toile: the front armhole is 180 mm and the back 176 mm (front 4 mm longer; in commercial patterns the front is usually the shorter one). If the front armhole stands away from the body at the toile, pinch the excess at the armhole edge and pin it out toward the bust point; then on the paper pattern fold out the same wedge from the armhole to the bust point, and let it open into the princess seam: redraw the side piece's princess edge smoothly through the opened point and walk it against the centre piece so both are the same length again, before cutting the cloth.

Use ready-made single-fold bias tape, 12 mm wide (25 mm unfolded), in a colour that matches the cloth: it turns fully to the inside and is not seen from outside. Cut 387 mm for each of 2 edges: measured length + 10 mm folded under at the start + 20 mm overlap where the ends meet. This is a purchased notion, not included in the cloth layout.

The cutting pattern includes 6 mm seam allowance on this edge. Start at the side seam: fold the first end under 10 mm and let the other end overlap it 20 mm. Unfold one long edge of the tape and lay it on the right side of the edge, raw edges together; stitch along the tape's crease, 6 mm from the edge. Trim the allowance to 3 mm and clip inward curves every 10 mm up to the stitching (not through it). Press tape and allowance away from the garment and understitch them together 2 mm from the seam. Turn the tape fully to the inside, rolling the seam 1 mm inward so it cannot be seen, and press. Do not topstitch: the edge shows no stitching from outside. Pin the tape flat to the inside and slipstitch its folded edge by hand, catching only one or two threads of the garment cloth with each stitch, and tack it to every seam allowance it crosses.

HEM: one, finished edge 1688 mm. Design assumption, not a measured source detail.

The cutting pattern includes exactly 16 mm on this edge. Turn the raw edge 6 mm to the wrong side, then turn another 10 mm; the second fold is the drawn finished edge. Press and stitch close to the inner fold. This hem curves where it meets the flared seams, so the turned-up allowance is about 34 mm longer in all than the line it is stitched to (up to 7 mm on one piece, mostly near the seams). Before turning, run a long ease stitch (4-5 mm) 5 mm from the raw edge, draw up the bobbin thread until the allowance lies flat against the garment, and steam-press; never fold a pleat (Seamwork, Sew Two Basic Hems). test the hem turn on the toile before cutting the final fabric.

4. Machine, needle and thread

Fabric mechanics have not been verified for this pattern. These are general examples. Pick your fabric first, then read your row from the table below.

For a light cotton: Universal needle 80/12, all-purpose polyester thread, stitch length 2.5 mm.

Choose the row for your actual cloth and test on a scrap:

- cotton and other light wovens (lawn, poplin, gingham, voile): Universal 70/10 - 90/14
- fine and sheer (chiffon, organza, silk): Microtex (or Universal) 60/8 - 70/10
- linen: Universal 70/10 - 90/14
- woven wool and tweed: Universal 80/12 - 90/14
- cotton twill / denim: Jeans 70/10 - 110/18
- jersey and knits: Jersey (ball point) 60/8 - 80/12
- very stretchy knits: Stretch 75/11 or 90/14
- satin, silk, microfibre: Microtex 60/8 - 90/14

Interfacing: choose a type compatible with your actual cloth and test a scrap first. Follow its manufacturer instructions for temperature, moisture, pressing time and cooling. The printed appearance does not identify the fabric or its interfacing requirements.

Needle and stitch-length figures: Schmetz "Needles by Fabric Type"; thread: Gutermann Sew-all No. 100; stitch length: Deer & Doe; interfacing: Vlieseline.